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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application
NAOTO YAMANO et al.

Examiner: David A. Rogers

Group Art Unit: 2856

Serial Number: 10/644,821

Confirmation No.: 6178

Filed: August 21, 2003

For: SAMPLING TUBE-TYPE SMOKE DETECTOR

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION NOTICE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The claims of this application have been restricted in accordance with three groupings based on the Examiner's contention that the groupings or sub-combinations are distinct from each other as they are separately useable. Applicants take issue with whether or not the sub-combination could be separately useable. However, to avoid further debate, Applicants herewith propose amendments to the claims that effectively render moot the restriction imposed by the Examiner in the outstanding official action.

The specification and claims are also amended to correct an inappropriate translation of the English language text from Japanese to thereby clarify and render more definite certain descriptive language in the specification and claims. The abstract, likewise, has been amended so that it is consistent with the revised written description and claims.

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

An amendment of the written description is presented below under the heading "Amendment of the Specification."

In the Abstract

A new abstract of the disclosure is provided below under the heading "Abstract of the Disclosure."

Amendments to Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS. The list of claims indicates all amendments to the claims proposed in this paper as well as the status of all claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.